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# Historic Centre of Rome (Italy/Holy See)

## No 91ter

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

Italy/Holy See (each according to its jurisdiction)

#### Name of property

Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura

#### Location

City of Rome  
Holy See  
Italy

#### Inscription

1980, 1990

#### Brief description

Founded, according to legend, by Romulus and Remus in 753 BC, Rome was first the centre of the Roman Republic, then of the Roman Empire, and it became the capital of the Christian world in the 4th century. The World Heritage site, extended in 1990 to include monuments of the Holy See, includes some of the major monuments of antiquity such as the Forums, the Mausoleum of Augustus, the Mausoleum of Hadrian, the Pantheon, Trajan's Column and the Column of Marcus Aurelius, as well as the religious and public buildings of papal Rome.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

The Historic Centre of Rome was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 and extended in 1990 to include extra-territorial properties of the Holy See in the area west of the Tiber River as far as St Peter's Square. The property boundary in the west was recommended in the ICOMOS evaluations of 1980 and 1990 to extend to the walls built by Pope Urban VIII. An outline sketch of the western boundary accompanied the 1980 ICOMOS evaluation, but no other map was provided at that time. Within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, upon the request of the World Heritage Centre to clarify the area of the property, Italy provided a map in 2009 (Map ITVA 91bis –item 62), acknowledged by decision 34 COM 8D (2010) of the World Heritage Committee and

subsequently posted on the World Heritage web site. This map, while showing the monuments added in 1990, did not show the extended boundary of the overall property along the line of the walls of Urban VIII to the west, but followed the line of the Aurelian wall. The property area of the Historic Centre of Rome (in Italy) was stated as 1446,2 ha. The property area of the Properties of the Holy See (in the Holy See) was stated as 38,9 ha. There is no buffer zone.

According to the current submission the area indicated in this map was not correct and the map did not take into account the previous recommendations, given at the time of the inscription (1980) and reiterated at the moment of the extension (1990). Therefore in the context of preparing the Management Plan for the inscribed property, it has become necessary to rectify the perimeter of the property.

#### Modification

The proposed modification extends the property boundary to the walls of Urban VIII in order to include the Gianicolo quarter, the Palazzo di Giustizia, the Bridges Margherita, Cavour and Umberto, essential achievements of the 19th century urbanism, as well as the bridge and the Castel Sant'Angelo.

ICOMOS notes that the proposed property boundary as shown on the maps now submitted is in accordance with the previous recommendations of ICOMOS (1980 & 1990) in that it follows the line of the city walls built by Pope Urban VIII along the western side of the city, but excluding Vatican City and runs along the south side and eastern curve of St Peter's Square, then follows the wall again around Castel Sant' Angelo. From this point the proposed boundary cuts across along the south-east side of Piazza Cavour (north-east side of Palazzo di Giustizia) to meet Via Vittoria di Colonna, where it turns east to the River Tiber. The boundary then follows the west bank of the river to Via Cola di Rienzo where it crosses with the bridge Regina Margherita and continues east along Via Ferdinando di Savoia before turning north along Via Principessa Clotilde to meet Via Luisa di Savoia and then east along this street to create the northern boundary, just north of Piazza del Popolo and continues on to join Viale del Muro Torto. San Paolo Fuori le Mura remains as a separate property component.

Map A shows this property boundary as a solid red line and shows the 2009 boundary as a dotted red line. The proposed modification as indicated by the difference between the new property boundary and the one shown on the map submitted in 2009 is the inclusion of areas between the previous boundary and the line of the walls of Urban VIII, including the Gianicolo quarter, the Palazzo di Giustizia, the Bridges Margherita, Cavour and Umberto, and Castel Sant'Angelo and its bridge.

ICOMOS notes however that the new property boundary is drawn along the south side of the bridge Regina Margherita, so would appear not to include the bridge.

This map (Map A) also indicates the exclusion of a few blocks between Via Luisa di Savoia and Via Ferdinando di Savoia east of the river, immediately north-east of the Piazza del Popolo.

The property area is now stated to be 1430,8 ha. ICOMOS notes that it is not stated whether this is the overall property area including San Paolo Fuori le Mura.

ICOMOS notes that while the proposed boundary follows almost entirely the location previously recommended in ICOMOS evaluations, no explanation has been given as to why the small area near Piazza del Popolo is now to be excluded. However ICOMOS considers the amended boundary would be adequate provided the boundary is intended to include the bridge Regina Margherita.

According to the submission the proposed amendment will enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee decisions and as already taken into account in the Retrospective Statement of OUV recently approved; the proposed amendment does not imply any difference to the legal protection, since the whole area is under protection of the same laws and regulations. The 'Historic City of Rome', which includes all the World Heritage Area except San Paolo Fuori le Mura (the Basilica of St Pauls outside the Wall) is protected by the Town Planning Scheme. According to the Periodic Reports of 2006 and 2014, the New Town Planning Scheme extending the area of the Historic City from 1500 ha to 6500 ha protects a wider area surrounding the walled city.

Individual contexts and monuments within and outside the Historic City are protected by Legislative Decree no. 42, 22 January 2004, 'Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code'. The Vatican properties are protected under the Law for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage no. CCCLV, 25 July 2001. Other protection instruments within the City of Rome are resolutions nos. 139, 1997 and 187, 2003 concerning the protection of historic shops; the General Urban Traffic Plan, June 1999; Law no. 183, 1989 "Provision for functional reorganisation to preserve the territory", for the prevention measures against the risk of flooding by the Tiber River; and Executive Decision no. 786, 25 September 2002, which established the Urban Décor Organisational Unit.

According to the submission, the management plan for the property, drafted but not yet submitted, already takes into account the amended boundaries.

ICOMOS notes that the management plan was being prepared at the time of the Periodic Report in 2006 and a preparatory study was completed in 2008. An ad hoc commission was set up in 2009 to draft the management plan. It is not clear whether this includes the Vatican properties.

ICOMOS considers that the total area of the property needs to be clarified, as does the property boundary in

relation to the bridge Margherita. It would be helpful to also show the boundary of the area protected under the New Town Planning Scheme.

### 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

#### Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura, Holy See and Italy, be **approved**.

#### Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party submit, by 1 December 2015, an amended map to the World Heritage Centre showing clearly that the bridge Regina Margherita is included within the property boundary and clarifying the total area of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. The map should also show the boundary of the area protected by the New Town Planning Scheme.

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party be encouraged to finalise the management plan.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property